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Letter dated 16 April 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform the Security Council of the latest developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to request it to hold an emergency meeting to discuss recent developments concerning the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), including the grave incident that occurred on Sunday, in which an aircraft chartered by the United Nations and transporting 120 Moroccan peacekeepers was prohibited from landing in Kisangani, the capital of the eastern province, by Rwanda and the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma). The aircraft was forced to reroute to Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic.

This incident is the most recent in a series of delaying tactics by Rwanda and RCD-Goma aimed at blocking the entire peace process initiated by the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

The Security Council will recall that RCD-Goma refused to withdraw and redeploy its forces at intermediary defensive positions 15 kilometres from the front line and at new defensive positions 215 kilometres from the front line, as jointly determined for RCD-Goma and the Armée patriotique rwandaise by the sub-plans for disengagement and redeployment signed in Harare, Zimbabwe, in accordance with the disengagement and redeployment plan signed in Kampala, Uganda.

Rwanda and RCD-Goma also saw fit to persecute Uruguayan military observers from MONUC who were guilty, in their view, of raising the flag of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a symbol par excellence of the country's national sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, principles which the Security Council has constantly reaffirmed in all its resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The harassment of Uruguayan MONUC forces is contrary to the status-of-forces agreement of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, signed by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations, which establishes the framework for MONUC to fulfil its mandate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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Before this latest incident, Rwanda and RCD-Goma tried to place conditions on the deployment of MONUC forces throughout Congolese territory. Even worse, they also had the audacity and impertinence to refuse to allow the head of the MONUC forces, General Moutanga Diallo of Senegal, to land in Kisangani, thereby preventing him from welcoming the Moroccan contingent.

My Government wishes to draw the Security Council's attention to paragraph 28 of its resolution 1341 (2001) of 22 February 2001, in which the Council "Expresses its readiness to consider possible measures which could be imposed, in accordance with its responsibilities and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, in case of failure by parties to comply fully with this resolution".

My Government believes that all conditions have been met for the Security Council to apply, under Articles 39 to 42 of the Charter of the United Nations, exemplary sanctions against Rwanda and RCD-Goma, representing Rwanda. To act otherwise would amount to depriving the various Security Council resolutions of their credibility and would incur the risk of further escalation of the war of aggression.

My Government remains convinced that the manifest purpose, inter alia, of all the delaying tactics used by Rwanda and RCD-Goma is not only to encourage the resumption of hostilities in order to perpetuate the Congolese occupation but also, and especially, to cover up their illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in violation of its national sovereignty, and the other illicit trafficking which they are conducting to help defray the cost of their war effort.

This latest incident happened in Kisangani, a martyred city that was largely destroyed last year in three confrontations between the regular armies of Uganda and Rwanda. My Government takes this opportunity to draw the Security Council's attention again to the special situation of this city in the tragedy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to recall the provisions of Security Council resolution 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000, in particular its paragraphs 3 and 14, demanding the effective demilitarization of the city of Kisangani and calling on Uganda and Rwanda to make reparations for the loss of life and to the property damage they have inflicted on the civilian population of that city.

My Government invites the Security Council to take action concerning this letter and to circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) **Ileka Atoki**
Minister-Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.